

Making Waves

March 2014

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OUR 4th YEAR

Enquiries, contributions, sponsorship, ECopy
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Duck season is over, and during our 2013-14 “Ducks 4 Dollars campaign” you helped Merewether Surf Club raise over \$14,000!

Newcastle Surf Lifesaving Clubs and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter service together raised \$50,000 in this year’s major fundraiser for the Hunter region!

In the months to come there will be a visible sign of the generosity of the local community on Merewether

Beach as the surf club has decided to use the dollars raised to fund the purchase of an All Terrain Vehicle already nicknamed “the Duck Mobile” which will be emblazoned with the Ducks 4 Dollars logo as a thank you to the generosity of all who donated to this great cause. Funding will also contribute to vital Lifesaving first aid and training equipment as well as shirts for our Juniors Age Managers.



A HUGE shout out to Dave “Quacker” Hoar and all members of the 2013-14 Merewether SLSC Ducks for Dollars Committee on an amazing effort this year!



**THANK YOU ALL FOR
YOUR SUPPORT**

Girls just want to have fun



In a recent conversation with Tim Ryan, president of Merewether Surfboard Club, we talked about women in surfing and

how the girls are carving out their own identity, not just on the National level but also on the local level.

Merewether Surfboard Club is developing a richness of talent and depth amongst its female surfers.

5-10 years ago, women's surf events struggled to develop a following but today the standard in the women's events is so high and the surfers so strong that the men watch the girls events with great interest and respect.

Merewether surfboard club's elite surfer Philippa Anderson surfs like a bloke – she hits the lip as good as or better than most young fellas Tim said. Our club also has a strong group of girls who are really developing their surfing skills – Ruby Bortolus, Sarah and Laura Phelan, Sam Miller, Olivia Sage, Sophie Back, Sami Smith and Sabre Norris to name a few . These girls are not just “surfie chicks!” They are a strong group of talented girls who are making a name for themselves already and there is another group of young girls following them through the ranks of the club.

The Billabong “Be the Influence” Boardriders Battle held recently in Cronulla had female junior and senior surfers as required competitors in the teams.

Surfboard Clubs today need talented girl surfers and our club has decided to provide finance for a specialist coach specifically to develop the talent of our girls - cadets and grommies. The girls' skills are obvious and there to be harnessed said Tim and Merewether Surfboard Club intend to take every opportunity to enter these girls in events like the Jim Beam SurfTag and the Orica Tag Team Challenge.

Look out boys!





beaches cafe

All New Menu

MONDAYS	Steak Night - \$12.90
TUESDAYS	Fishermans Basket - \$15.00 and Pool
WEDNESDAYS	Schnitzel Night - \$9.90 and Trivia
THURSDAYS	Hamburger Night - \$10.00
SUNDAYS	4PM Live Entertainment followed by DJ at 7PM

FRIDAY to SUNDAY - Newcastle's Best Live Entertainment



Well known Merewether identity Graham Tamba Adam has been keeping a daily record of events for over 30 years. Each month he shares some aspect of his life with us.

Beattons Milk Bar- Frederick Street Merewether

When a friend showed me this picture taken c.1958 of the shop with the beach in the background it brought back some great memories of when I was a young snapper. I remember going there in the early-mid 60's to buy milkshakes or fish and chips and I enjoyed playing the little individual juke boxes they had fixed to the wall in each little booth.



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All the guys used to ride their skateboards – down the highway, hooking around towards the baths or down past the pub - ending up at the shop.

I used to hang there all the time in my early teens.

Beside the shop there was a big open car park where you could stand on the headland and look down to check the surf.

Ross Blatchford tells me that at the age of 16 he and his dad delivered “Blatchford’s Pies” there for the Australian SLSC Titles in 1960, and the shop was so busy that Ross had to stay there to help out and sell the pies that day!

Ian Moore tells me that he and Jim McGuinness started the demolition of the back wall of the shop and he thinks that it was in 1968.

This picture certainly brought back some great memories for me!



Mick Phillips
CHAPMAN PROPERTY
02 4926 1400



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IS THE NEWCASTLE REAL ESTATE MARKET GETTING TOO HOT TO HANDLE?

Confidence has returned to the residential property market in the Newcastle region. Listings are becoming scarcer and many purchasers are frustrated by missing out on properties that go for higher than expected prices. So, how should buyers best deal with the changing market?

It can be very difficult for buyers to keep a cool head when all around them are the signs of increased market activity. Huge numbers at Open Houses and increased bidding at Auction can cause many a purchaser sleepless nights. But when buyers ring an agent and find a new listing is already sold before they get a chance to look at it, or they go to an Auction expecting to secure a property they like with the funds they have available and the sale price goes way above reserve and their budget, the subsequent anxiety can lead to rash decisions.

In fact, while many purchasers panic when they realise that they should have made a decision faster to avoid missing out or paying higher prices, caution is still the watchword. But it is hard to be cautious when you have been gazumped on a house you had set your heart on while even really challenged properties that no one was looking at six months ago are selling for prices that seem ridiculous to purchasers get desperate to buy at all costs.

For most purchasers, buying a property is one of the biggest and most stressful decisions of their life, and while caution may cause them to pay a higher price in the long run, it is important to avoid a hasty decision that could leave them with an over-priced lemon that will only sell again in similar market conditions.



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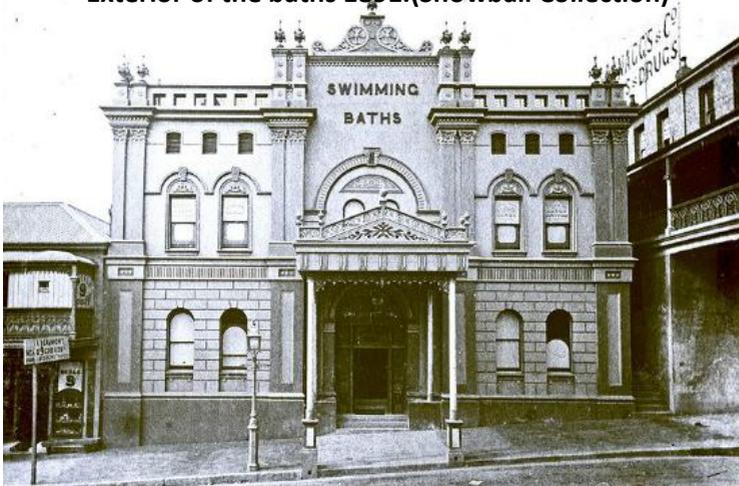


Interior of the baths 1891.(Snowball Collection)

The Newcastle Underworld

In the days when bathrooms were rare, public bathhouses such as the Newcastle Corporation Baths in Newcomen Street performed a useful service. The baths were opened in 1888 at a cost of £4500. The site was designated as a “water reserve” for the settlement in the early 19th century.

Exterior of the baths 1891.(Snowball Collection)



The water first used in the baths came from the ocean via a pipe running just north of the ocean baths. It took 6 hours to fill and held over 368,000 litres (81,000 gallons) of water.

The swimming baths were 27.4m (90 ft) long and 10.6m (35ft) wide with depths ranging from 0.9m (3ft 3ins) to 1.8m (6ft).

The baths were initially for men only but that was later changed to allow “for ladies” from 6am to 4pm on Thursdays. Part of the building was demolished in 1938-39 to make way for Newcastle’s first shopping arcade designed by Newcastle architects Jaeter, Rodd and Hay and built by Messrs Murdoch and Turner of Islington.

The City Arcade was opened in 1939.

Today, the long empty pool still exists in situ there beneath the feet of passer-bys although these days it is studded with squat brick pillars.



The basement of the City Arcade foundation piers built straight into the pool.
(Image: Belinda Howden)

It's dark, dank, stuffy and more than a little claustrophobic down there. There's no public access and no hint normally of what this unusually long space was used for. No hint, that is, until the occasional visitor, usually a tradesman, crouching and shuffling along comes across small strange sets of steps built into the once whitewashed sides of this unique basement.

I'm sure the "lost seagulls" from Merewether baths would have loved to see this facility still available while their baths are being renovated!



WATCH and CLOCK REPAIRS

WATCH WATER PRESSURE TESTING

WATCH BATTERIES

SHOP 12 JUNCTION VILLAGE, KENRICK STREET

THE JUNCTION

PH: 49694278

THE JEWELLERY AFFAIR

DAVID MCKAY - WATCHMAKER & JEWELLER



Thoughts on Merewether Beach

An extract from MR's article in "The History of Merewether Surfboard Club 1964-1988" book.

Mark Richards began surfing around the age of 5 – always at Blacksmiths Beach – until he was around the age of 10 or 11.

"After the safety of Blacksmiths, the more exposed beach at Merewether was a forbidding, challenging place to surf. In those early days, even though I enjoyed surfing there, I always believed Merewether was a bit above me. It always picked up a bit more swell than Blacksmiths. It was a lot bigger, the waves were more powerful and it was always a lot harder to get out. I remember days when it was big during winter, on those afternoons after school – was it really bigger and better then or was it that I was just that much smaller?

Hot locals were out there ripping it up. I would just sit on the beach and hope that one day I would be able to go out there and surf it when it was big. I began surfing off The Rocks and The Ladies and I believe both places had better waves in those days because of the sand formation.

It was exciting because there were no legropes, so every time you lost your board, it would be washed up on the rocks and – bang! – another ding. In hindsight surfing Merewether was a major step in my learning process.

Merewether is one of my favourite waves anywhere in the world. On the special days, when the beach offers its biggest rideable waves, the greatest challenge is just to get out. I still refuse to jump in at the baths, taking instead the route out from The Ladies Pool, which involves a long hard paddle through massive white water. Third Reef, the name given to Merewether's biggest break is like Waimea Bay in Hawaii. The waves come out of deep water, hit the reef, surge forward and pitch out. It's a thrill to surf because it has size and power and then has a great wall on which you can make your big moves. When it's 12 feet plus, there are very few surfers who can meet the challenge. Some of the select crew who now ride Merewether on these giant days are Tim Lawrie, Tim Ryan, Nicky Wood, Luke Egan, Richard Kelly, Phil Woodcock, Simon Law and Mick Adam.

Perhaps the reason Merewether turns out so many world class surfers is because the beach is a world class surf spot, something a lot of people don't appreciate. The good thing about Merewether is that there is almost always a wave there, perhaps of varying quality. It's a place that can be surfed when it's one foot and when it's 12 foot and you can't say that about too many places.

There are waves in the world that have more machinelike precision but there are very few places that offer Merewether's variety and consistency."

It was the summer of 2005, beginning of '06 when a group of strangers met with one goal in common - 'to become fitter'. They all met at Merewether beach and trained 3-5 times per week early mornings under the watching eye of Drew Blatchford. At first it was a core group of 5-10 people and whilst learning to do push ups, dips, crunches and sprints they also learnt a little bit about each other. They trained hard and

supported each other in achieving personal milestones. Goals were set, records were broken and it wasn't long before firm friendships were being made.

They named themselves 'Drew Crew' and soon special events marked their calendar. Training continued rain, hail or shine and some even registered for 5 and 10 Km runs. It was after roughly 3 years when Drew hung up his training cap, but that didn't mean the end for this crew. They were lucky enough to find a family friend to help coach them and they started training 3 times a week under the watching eye of Jai. A new 'Merewether Beach Fitness Crew' emerged and it was back to the grindstone with lunges, sprints, dips and core core and more core! Now with abs of steel and a few new faces along the way MBFC has stood the test of time training all year round, without fail for nearly 6 years.

Friendships are as strong as ever and their support for each other is remarkable. They regularly participate in the Newy park run, do extra training days and have a long run each Saturday. Now they participate regularly in 5 and 10 Km runs with some attempting half marathons.

You will see this tightly knit group most mornings at Juicy Beans after their training session having breakfast and a well-deserved coffee. Whilst fitness and well-being has always been a priority for MBFC, the balance of fun and laughter is equally important. They never let a reason go by without celebrating. Birthdays, post-Christmas picnics, Australia Day and even watching the full moon rise are just a few reasons these firm friends get together. They are a fine bunch of people and their camaraderie is remarkable.

This year is their 8th year and the importance of fitness, fun and friendship is the forefront of this team. Lead by Jai, MBFC can be seen training along the Merewether/Dixon Park strip, boxing at the baths or running along the sand. They have come a long way and there is no sign of this team giving up.

Well done MBFC keep up the good work!

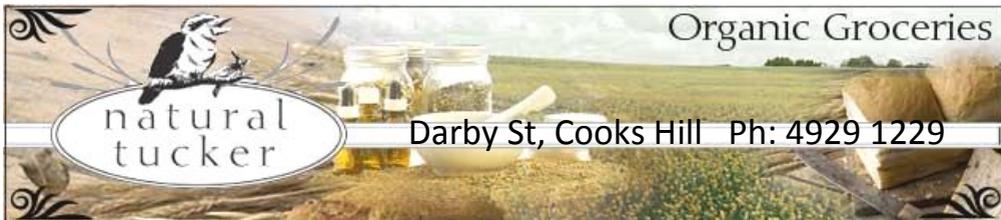


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Merewether Beach Fitness Crew



NEWCASTLE						
LAT 32° 56' LONG 151° 47' TIME ZONE -1000						
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS						
MARCH - 2014						
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
TIME M	TIME M	TIME M	TIME M	TIME M	TIME M	TIME M
30 0135 0.36 0749 1.82 1401 0.28 2019 1.82	31 ● 0226 0.33 0838 1.77 1444 0.31 2102 1.86					1 ● 0143 0.31 0808 1.96 1432 0.16 2043 1.72
2 0236 0.29 0858 1.93 1515 0.18 2129 1.76	3 0328 0.30 0945 1.84 1558 0.24 2214 1.77	4 0419 0.35 1031 1.71 1639 0.34 2259 1.75	5 0511 0.43 1117 1.56 1719 0.45 2343 1.69	6 0604 0.52 1203 1.42 1800 0.56	7 0029 1.62 0700 0.61 1253 1.30 1843 0.66	8 ☉ 0118 1.55 0800 0.67 1351 1.21 1934 0.73
9 0216 1.50 0906 0.70 1502 1.17 2040 0.78	10 0321 1.48 1015 0.89 1620 1.19 2150 0.78	11 0426 1.50 1114 0.65 1721 1.25 2255 0.73	12 0521 1.54 1202 0.59 1809 1.33 2349 0.67	13 0609 1.59 1242 0.52 1849 1.41	14 0034 0.61 0650 1.64 1316 0.47 1925 1.48	15 0114 0.55 0729 1.67 1348 0.43 1959 1.55
16 0151 0.50 0804 1.69 1419 0.40 2031 1.61	17 ○ 0229 0.46 0841 1.68 1449 0.39 2105 1.66	18 0307 0.44 0917 1.66 1521 0.40 2140 1.70	19 0346 0.44 0956 1.61 1555 0.43 2216 1.72	20 0430 0.45 1036 1.55 1631 0.47 2257 1.71	21 0518 0.48 1121 1.47 1712 0.53 2341 1.69	22 0612 0.52 1213 1.39 1759 0.60
23 0033 1.66 0714 0.55 1314 1.32 1857 0.66	24 ☽ 0136 1.63 0824 0.56 1429 1.30 2009 0.69	25 0249 1.64 0937 0.52 1547 1.33 2128 0.67	26 0402 1.68 1044 0.45 1657 1.42 2240 0.60	27 0507 1.74 1141 0.38 1755 1.54 2344 0.51	28 0605 1.80 1231 0.31 1845 1.65	29 0042 0.42 0659 1.83 1318 0.28 1933 1.75

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National Tidal Centre Datum is Lowest Astronomical Tide
Add one hour to the times when Daylight Saving Time is in force



A sign of the times spotted on a local street –
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HISTORY OF THE SURF BELT AND REEL

Australian surf clubs were the first in the world to use a length of rope as a form of life saving equipment. In 1903 a group of swimmers formed the Bronte Beach Surf Club. They rigged up a coil of rope on a pole stuck in the sand at the centre of the beach.

This rope on a pole idea was further developed by Lyster Ormsby of the Bondi Surf Bathers Lifesaving Club who built a model of a horizontal reel for the rope from a cotton reel and two bobby pins. The first full sized reel based on

Ormsbys' design was built by Sgt John Bond of Victoria Barracks in Paddington, and was improved on by Sydney coach builder G H Olding and officially made part of the surf lifesaving community on Sunday 24 March 1906. It consisted of a large

reel with a length of rope wrapped around it and a harness attached at one end. The reel rested in a frame that would rest on the sand. The reel and rope allowed a lifesaver wearing harness to swim to a struggling bather allowing the crew on the beach

to then pull the pair to safety. Oldings final design was used on beaches until 1933 when it was developed further into the piece of equipment we were more familiar with in the modern era of lifesaving until the belt and reel were phased out of active service in 1994 when the IRB (or Rubber Duckie) took over.

The belt and reel were still a familiar sight on beaches after their withdrawal as active pieces of rescue equipment, but only as part of surf lifesaving carnivals where they were used by competitors in the surf belt races. These races no longer form part of carnivals and the only time the belt and reel are seen today are at surf carnivals where teams carry them in the March Past

parade. It is widely reported that the first person to be rescued using the reel was an 8 year old boy by the name of Charles Kingsford-Smith who went on to become a famous aviator.



Closure of Merewether Baths

From Monday 24 February, Merewether Baths will be closed for a complete overhaul. During the project, both pools and the surrounding promenades will be upgraded so they can be enjoyed for many years to come. The baths are expected to be closed until the end of 2014 however work in this area is both weather and tide dependent.

Council will upgrade the Baths area by:

Improving the overall appearance, while maintaining the unique character of the area

Improving access to the facilities for all users

Addressing safety and maintenance issues

Upgrading the pumping and pipework system.

The baths, pavillion and carpark will all be unavailable for use however the stairs and access to Burwood Beach will be retained for the duration.

Alternate facilities including toilets and showers are available at Surfhouse and/or Merewether Beach.

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Ben Simon Gail Kyle Amanda Khal Brendan

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Hamilton South Community Playgroup Centre Thomas St, Hamilton South

Hamilton South Playgroup Centre is a well equipped play area which caters for indoor, craft and outdoor activities in informal sessions where mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers, children and babies meet together in a relaxed environment.

Contact Sarah 0433 951 311 for more information



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